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JAPAN.

Report of smallpox on the steamship Columbia.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, April 26, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that a case of discrete variola, in the papular stage, was detected April 18 among the Chinese steerage passengers of the American steamship *Columbia*, on her voyage from Hong-kong to Moji, a coaling port in southern Japan, a few hours before her arrival at the latter point. The patient was landed at Moji by the Japanese police authorities, who seem to have performed a perfunctory disinfection consisting of the sprinkling of the steerage with a weak carbolic acid. There being no consul or other United States official at Moji no other measures were ordered or taken save those initiated upon the day following, the 19th, by the surgeon of the ship, who fumigated the steerage and steerage baggage, as well as the room in which the passenger had for a few hours been isolated, with sulphur, for two hours only, following this by washing with chloride of lime and fresh whitewashing. All hands on board, with the exception of the firemen, were then vaccinated, and the passengers taken on at Kobe were submitted to the same operation, by a reliable physician, before embarkation.

The measures taken in this case are, of course, incomplete and unsatisfactory, and there would appear, especially, no reason for the delay in the vaccination of the firemen. It should be stated, however, that the surgeon of the ship has been for some days suffering from severe pulmonary hemorrhage, and is, in fact, at the present date, unable to leave his room.

I have, myself, vaccinated the portion of the crew omitted by the surgeon, as well as all steerage passengers embarking here.

In view of all the circumstances, particularly of the probability that any infection likely to arise from the case removed on the 18th instant, has already occurred, I have not felt warranted in sending the ship to quarantine here, for further treatment.

I have appended copies of this letter to the supplemental bills of health granted here.

Respectfully, yours,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Sanitary report from Yokohama.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, May 2, 1899.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the sanitary situation, as regards Japan proper, continues very satisfactory. A few cases of dysentery are reported at various points, chiefly in the central provinces, but the disease has not, as yet, assumed epidemic proportions.

Of the plague in Formosa, which is steadily, though not rapidly increasing, the latest reports available are as follows: Total cases January 1 to April 27, 1,611; deaths, 1,168. Tainan, April 24, new cases, 24; deaths, 18. Taichu, April 25, new cases, 6. Taihoku, April 25, new cases, 2.

Respectfully, yours,

STUART ELDRIDGE,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.